Plate XI.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.

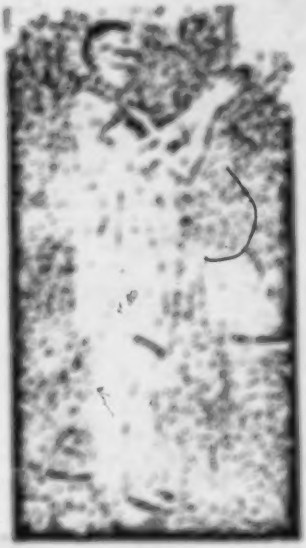

Fig. 3.

[Facing P. 191]

13:Hollis T-5 (ex. 1908) 1909 FLA Dorobo FLA

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

A Dirge, East. With Plate M. Hollis.

Some Dorobo Beliefs. *By A. C. Hollis.*

126 101

I recently went for a trip through the little known country lying between Nairobi and the Anglo-German frontier, and was fortunate enough to obtain a snapshot of a Dorobo, who was a member of the caravan, spitting towards the rising sun before saying his morning prayer (Pl. M, Fig. 1). Whilst performing this ceremony he had to lay aside his sword.

The rains were overdue at the time, and I took photographs of the same Dorobo making medicine to prevent the rain from falling. Fig. 2 shows him whistling at and defying the rain-god. In Fig. 3 he has laid aside his bow, and whilst holding his sword upright is rubbing the handle rapidly between his two hands. This is done when the rain-god takes no notice of his defiant remarks, and insists on carrying on the celestial water-cart. It is doubtless only a remarkable coincidence, but although the rain ceased threatened we had very little till we returned to the Uganda Railway, when it came down in torrents. All the natives of the caravan—Kikuyu, Kavirondo, and other East African tribes—believed that the Dorobo had kept off the rain, and I was told more than once that if he had not been for him we should have been washed away.

197

It is worthy of note that I met some Masai-Dorobo in the Rift Valley who did not speak Masai like most of the Dorobo in both British and German East Africa. Whether these savages had never known this language or had forgotten it owing to long intercourse with the Masai, or whether they had been simply poor Masai, who, owing to the loss of their cattle, had become outcasts and taken to hunting, I was unable to ascertain.

A. C. HOLLIS.

[P 197]